

Record of

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 21 of 1877.]

## REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 26th May 1877.

IN its opening editorial, headed "The Injustice of the British Government towards the Bijni Raj," the *Bhārat Sangskarak*, of the 14th May, writes:—When Her Majesty the Queen took the administration of the Government of India into her own hands, it was publicly proclaimed to the people of this country that she would not take possession of other men's estates, and that she would preserve the rights of the Indian princes inviolable. But how far this most solemn promise has been kept can be easily shown, among other instances, by the recent attitude of the British Government towards the Bijni Raj. It grieves us much, when we reflect on the most unjust dealings with the Maharajah. Our rulers say that he is a subject of theirs; because, when the Government made war with Bhootan a few years ago, the Bijni state was included by the Bhootan Government in the territory ceded by them to the British Government, on the ground that the Bijni Raj was tributary to them. The Maharajah had been for a long time kept under the care of the Court of Wards during his minority. On coming of age, he found that he had lost his vast estates and the rights thereto. But, however, he has now laid his claims before them, and has come down to Calcutta in the hope of having them restored. We trust he will now receive a generous consideration at the hands of the Government.

BHARAT  
SANGSKARAK,  
May 14th, 1877.

2. The *Sahachar*, of the 14th May, condemns the policy of Lord Lytton towards Affghanistan; and says that His Excellency is, most unjustly and without any real cause of provocation, picking up a quarrel with the Ameer.

SAHACHAR,  
May 14th, 1877.

3. Adverting to the subject of the new taxation, the same paper writes that the Lieutenant-Governor has, for the present, postponed the introduction of the irrigation cess, and thereby has done much good to the country. But His Honor has passed the Public Works' Cess Bill. What we have said before, we say again, that the imposition of this cess will be attended with much oppression and trouble. It is not at all just to lay any further burdens upon the land, when it is groaning under those already imposed. Is our Government ignorant of the fact that great oppression and trouble take place in the collection of any tax (however small)? If the Lieutenant-Governor had witnessed the trouble felt in the realization of the road cess, he would never have mentioned even the name of the Public Works cess.

SAHACHAR.

4. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 16th May, writes:—The English Government has made, and is still making, much effort to collect Sanscrit books from various places, and to preserve them from being destroyed or otherwise lost by having them printed. But the mere printing of them is not the best

HINDU RANJIKA,  
May 16th, 1877.



means for their preservation. The true way to preserve them is to encourage the study of Sanscrit, which ought to be introduced into all the English colleges and schools; and the text-books selected in this language ought to be changed every year.

BISHWA SUHRID,  
May 16th, 1877.  
Circulation about 450.

5. The *Bishwa Suhrid*, of the 16th May, complains of the great trouble and delay experienced by litigants in getting copies of decisions and depositions of witnesses from the amlahs attached to the courts at Mymensingh, and requests the local judicial officers to adopt speedy measures for the remedy of this evil.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
May 17th, 1877.  
Circulation about 2,217.

6. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, of the 17th May, writes that, if the policy which the Lieutenant-Governor has begun to adopt with regard to the administration of Bengal be not changed, it will doubtless be attended with great loss. His Honor, it would appear, seeks to wash off the odium he would incur, in ruining the interests of the zemindars of Bengal, by exterminating the indigo-planters of Behar; and while he rejects the memorials of the people which state their grievances, he would endeavour to please them by inflicting punishments on one or two Magistrates for injustice and oppression. And thus he would give proofs of his vigorous administration. But we believe that by this policy he will not succeed. Sir George Campbell also adopted a similar policy, but he met with no success.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

7. With reference to the Act for the registration of land, the same paper observes that great confusion has arisen in the mofussil in carrying out its provisions. The majority of the people there, and most of the Collectors also, have not hitherto been able to comprehend the real meaning of this Act. There is also great confusion in connection with the registration of rent-free lands. Many really do not know whether they are required to register such lands. Consequently, only a very few persons have been able to register them. The Government has been informed of this unsatisfactory state of things, and the Board of Revenue has very recently issued a circular stating that, though a period of six months had been allowed for the registration of lands, many have failed to comply with the request; and therefore a list of persons who will have failed to register their lands by the 1st of June, will be published on that day and a fine imposed on them by the Collectors under the Act. If the landholders wilfully neglect to do what is required of them, they will be liable to punishment; but if they are unable to do so, owing to some unavoidable cause, the matter ought to be made known to the Government by the Collectors.

SAMAJ DARPAN,  
May 18th, 1877.  
Circulation about 460.

8. The *Samaj Darpan*, of the 18th May, condemns in very strong terms the present police force, and says that it consists only of men who are illiterate and corrupt, and that, in consequence, great disgrace and oppression are suffered at their hands by honest and innocent people. It therefore behoves Government to remodel the present pernicious system, by admitting into this department only men who are better educated and honest.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
May 18th, 1877.

9. The *Moorshedabad Patrika*, of the 18th May, deplores the present most wretched condition of the Berhampore College, and says that the injustice of the Government with regard to this institution has no parallel. A large subscription was raised for the purpose of improving its condition, and especially of re-opening the B.A. classes. The money, which was in the hands of the Government, has been expended for another purpose than that for which it was intended. Besides, a sum of forty thousand rupees was subscribed by Rai Luchmiput Bahadoor, for the purpose of forming an



association to open an art school in Berhampore. But no such school has hitherto been opened. We had heard that the Government granted this sum to the College, but we now find that this is not true. The money is still in the hands of the Government. No measure is adopted to apply it to any purpose.

10. The *Moorshedabad Pratinidhi*, of the 18th May, writes:—The Lieutenant-Governor says that by the imposition of the Public Works cess the Government has not interfered with the permanent settlement. We should have admitted the truth of this assertion and entertained no fear about the infringement of the permanent settlement, if the new cess, instead of being imposed only on the zemindars and ryots, had been laid upon all classes of people.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PRATINIDHI,  
May 18th, 1877.

11. The same paper also writes that though the zemindars are a most influential class, yet their condition has now become most lamentable. Many amongst them have, at present, become involved in debt; and the cause of this can be traced to the fact that their income is much less than their expenses. For want of capital, they can neither improve the condition of their estates nor increase their income. But the question now is—what means should be adopted for the improvement of land? We say that the rates of taxes imposed on it should be diminished.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PRATINIDHI.

12. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 19th May, writes that such articles as ganja, opium, and wine are doing much injury to our countrymen; but still the Government gives encouragement to their trade, because immense profits are derived therefrom.

HINDU HITOISHINI,  
May 19th, 1877.  
Circulation about 300.

13. Adverting to the subject of the revision of text-books for the University of Calcutta, the same paper observes that it has not been just to place Mr. Lethbridge on the committee, since he has a personal interest in the matter.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

14. The *Grámbártá Prakashiká*, of the 19th May, says:—We learn that a greater sum of money, than what was at first estimated by the engineers, has been expended in the construction of the State Railway, extending from Kooshteah to Darjeeling. We believe that if such an estimate had been drawn up by a native engineer, and a larger sum than that estimated had been expended on it, he would doubtless have been visited most seriously in consequence of his error. But as this estimate, which has proved erroneous, was drawn up by English engineers, the Government has taken no measures against them. If the Government had appointed natives in the places of Europeans, and thereby had prevented most unnecessary and unjust expenditure in every department of labour, vast sums of money would have been saved; and no necessity would have been felt for the repeated imposition of fresh taxes on the poor.

GRAMBARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
May 19th, 1877.  
Circulation about 200.

15. A correspondent, writing from Jessore to the *Sádháraní*, of the 20th May, says that though the British Government is praised for its good laws and its impartial administration of justice, its adoption of measures for inflicting punishment on the wicked and supporting the cause of the innocent and the good, yet the rich and the strong have not ceased to commit oppressions upon the poor and the weak. However strict may be the laws of our Government, the zemindars will never cease to oppress their ryots. They will continue to demand undue rents and taxes. The Government, we think, will never be able to put an end to their oppression.

SADHARANI,  
May 20th, 1877.  
Circulation about 516.

16. In its opening editorial, headed "Messrs. Pellow and Palit," the *Soma Prakash*, of the 21st May, remarks that arbitrary measures have become so

SOMA PRAKASH,  
May 21st, 1877.  
Circulation about 700.



sweet to our rulers that they cannot forsake them notwithstanding the frequent rebukes to which they are repeatedly subjected. Very recently Mr. Pellew, the Magistrate of Howrah, gave a fresh proof of the tendency of our rulers to exercise despotic power towards the natives. He most unjustly imposed a fine on Mr. Palit, a Barrister-at-Law. Such high-handed proceedings are not few amongst the judicial officers. In fact, they are of almost daily occurrence; and that because the Government does not adopt any effectual measures to prevent them. If officers, who commit oppression or injustice, were to be degraded and debarred promotion until they could show proofs of good behaviour, these high-handed and unjust proceedings might be brought to an end.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
May 21st, 1877.  
Circulation about 700.

17. In another editorial under the heading "Imprisonment for Debts," the same paper observes, that when the new Civil Procedure Code was submitted to the Legislative Council, a proposal was made to abolish the system of imprisonment for debts. Had this been carried out, much good might have ensued. The law to punish debtors by imprisonment is not a result of foresight and thought on the part of the legislators. That the code, which is now in vogue, is most absurd, has become evident to everybody who has observed its operation. According to it, a decree-holder (if he wishes) may even subject a debtor, who is able to pay his debts, to insult and disgrace; and also cause him to be imprisoned, by issuing a warrant against him. This is doubtless a great error in the code. What necessity is there for imprisoning a debtor when the decree-holders' demand may be easily realized? The decree-holders are thus encouraged to gratify their hostile feelings and dishonest purposes. This law for the imprisonment of debtors is not just, even with regard to those who are unable to pay their debts. Decree-holders also derive no profit from it, but rather are subjected to loss, because they have to sustain them in prison. If the law of imprisonment for debts were altogether repealed, much good might follow. At present a creditor cares little when he gives a loan, because he thinks that the defaulting debtor might be imprisoned. But if the law be repealed, creditors would be more careful not to give loans without discrimination; and this most injurious practice of borrowing would be discouraged.

SOMA PRAKASH.

18. The same paper in another article says, that Mr. MacLeod, the Assistant Commissioner of Assam, has become most arbitrary in his proceedings, and does nothing to improve the wretched condition of that province. He is totally incompetent to be a ruler. But our Government oftentimes makes strange arrangements. It frequently sends incompetent men to those places where the most competent men are required.

SOMA PRAKASH.

19. The same paper also writes:—We cannot approve the proposal of Sir John Strachey to open separate agricultural banks in various parts of the country for the benefit of peasants, because the advantages derived from their establishment are not appreciated. It has been also proposed to appoint some one to collect information about the state of agriculture and the agriculturists in the country, and also suggest means whereby the interests of both may be promoted. We think this proposal a good one. But what can a single person do? We would suggest that, instead of one man, the Government should require the Magistrates to gather such information in their respective jurisdictions, during their stay in the mofussil, and send in reports with their remarks to the Board of Revenue. The measures which the Board deem necessary for the improvement of cultivation, &c., should also be conveyed through the Magistrates, who should also endeavour to give



cultivators every encouragement and pecuniary help, in order that they might meet the expenses necessary for carrying out the measures proposed. It is not likely that they will be able to do this without aid, until, at least, they have realized the profits arising from the carrying out of such measures.

20. The *Sambád Bháskar*, of the 21st May, writes that, owing to the absence of seats in the court of the Police Magistrate in Calcutta, much inconvenience is experienced by being obliged to stand long. Besides this, the police constables do not know how to behave towards gentlemen, who are oftentimes subjected to great insult and disgrace. Lately a respectable native was grossly insulted by being pushed by a Mussulman constable. We therefore request the higher authorities to check such rude behaviour on the part of the constables, and to allow seats for the accommodation of gentlemen.

SAMBAD BHASKAR,  
May 21st, 1877.

21. In an article headed the "Imposture of Russia," the editor of the *Urdu Guide*, after setting out in some detail the various artifices had recourse to by Russia, for some time back, with a view to place Turkey in difficulties, proceeds to say that, in addition to all this, it has very cleverly managed, by means of a bribe, not only to keep England away from taking the part of the Turks, but to have abuses heaped on them, in Parliament, at public meetings, and from the pulpit; whence imprecations have been uttered either from bigotry or corruption. The conference was brought about by Russia, who managed to alienate England for ever from Turkey; whilst the Russian Ambassador got Lord Salisbury over to his side, and all Europe followed in the same direction. Though Russia was all this while busy in making preparations for war, yet the Sultan showed no signs of fear or timidity. Next came the visit of General Ignatieff to the various Courts of Europe, which was followed by the signing of the protocol; and Russia had the impudence to think that Turkey, who had never been consulted in the matter, would also accept it. Two reasons are to be assigned for this protocol—1st, the extreme foresightedness of the English Ministry, and next, the refractoriness and obstinacy of Russia, which aimed at interfering with Turkish independence. In contrast with the stubbornness and obstinacy of Russia, the conduct of England appears to be one of extreme cowardice. We wait to see what England has to say to the fact of the Czar and his courtiers proudly leaving unanswered Lord Derby's last letter; but this much we must say, that it would have been praiseworthy on the part of England if she had (as she did twenty years ago) aided Turkey now, whilst it is with all courage and bravery engaged in striving for the liberty, independence, religion, and safety of its empire. England's grandeur would have increased thereby. But alas, all the sovereigns have sided with that tyrannical slaughterer of men, who so mercilessly killed the people of Poland and Yomund, and made rivers of blood to flow. Our Mussulman brethren can expect no redress at the hands of Europe. God alone is our best pleader, protector, and aid.

URDU GUIDE,  
May 19th, 1877.  
Circulation about 400.

22. After tracing out the way in which mankind came to be divided into different grades and ranks, and the probable origin of sovereign and subject, the Editor of the *Behár Bandhu* says, in a rather familiar style, that it is no joke to be a sovereign; for he must not only really look after the welfare of his subjects, but attend to each minute affair of his kingdom. Such was the case with the famous Rájás Rámchandrajee and Jánakjee, with whose rule that of the English would stand no comparison. It may be as well to place in juxta-position the ease and comfort enjoyed then with what is now experienced. It must, however, be admitted that we can wear

BEHAR BANDHU,  
May 23rd, 1877.  
Circulation about 500.



Manchester cloth now, though in former times the Dacca muslin (of which the English are still fond) and the Pítambar (mixed silk) cloths were in vogue. Sovereigns of the present day think it an incumbent virtue to devise means to bring their subjects under greater control, to impoverish the country, and make their subjects follow them like dogs. Does the present policy consist in making the tenants beggars, plundering the rich, and despoiling the zemindárs of their lands in Bengal, Behár, and Orissa, so that they may have no chance of raising themselves in position? A gentleman, whilst in England, compared the people of India to asses, who will never shake their heads, come what may. This may be very true, but no one can discern the thoughts of the heart. Perhaps some *sáhib* will from personal knowledge be able to state the contentment of the people, especially now-a-days, with the English rule. Go to any village and inquire, and the ready answer is that "there is no good rule prevailing now." What can be the reason? Why, the excess of taxation, &c. Government does many things to benefit us; but all these turn out to be evil for the country, and the administration is called a greedy one. The editor promises to return to the subject on some future occasion.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 26th May 1877.*

JOHN ROBINSON,

*Government Bengali Translator.*

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the week ending  
the 26th May 1877.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Bhárat Sangskarak" ...	Calcutta ...	Weekly ...	14th May 1877.
2	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	14th ditto.
3	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Beauleah, Rájsháhye ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
4	"Bishwa Suhrid" ...	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
5	"Amrita Bázár Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	17th ditto.
6	"Samáj Darpan" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	18th ditto.
7	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	18th ditto.
8	"Moorsshedabad Patriká" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	18th ditto.
9	"Moorsshedabad Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	18th ditto.
10	"Pratikár" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	18th ditto.
11	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	19th ditto.
12	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	19th ditto.
13	"Sulabha Samáchar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	19th ditto.
14	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	20th ditto.
15	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	20th ditto.
16	"Howrah Hitakarí" ...	Bethar, Howrah ...	Ditto ...	20th ditto.
17	"Soma Prakásh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	21st ditto.
18	"Sambád Bháskar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	21st ditto.
19	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	14th to 18th May 1877.
20	"SambádPurnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	19th to 25th May 1877.
21	"Urdu Guide" ( <i>in Urdu</i> ) ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	19th May 1877.
22	"Behár Bandhu" ( <i>in Hindi</i> ) ...	Bankipore, Patna ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
23	"Jám-Jahán-numá" ( <i>in Persian.</i> ) ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.